

SB 411 (Simitian)

Increasing Renewable Energy Investment

Background:

- Replacing older, high-polluting fossil fuel power plants with newer, clean renewable energy is a key element of the state's strategy to reduce greenhouse gases.
- California has enacted laws to require the state's electric utilities to meet 20 percent of the energy needs through renewable energy resources by 2010. State energy agencies have also adopted a non-binding goal of having one-third of their energy be renewable by 2021.
- Current law limits the amount of renewable electricity state agencies can require utilities to use and prohibits them from requiring utilities to purchase more renewable energy.

SB 411 does the following:

- Eliminates the cap in current law on the amount of renewable energy resources state energy agencies can order utilities to buy.
- Authorizes state energy agencies to order utilities to buy or build more renewable energy up to one-third of their overall energy need in order to ensure the state meets its greenhouse gas emission goals.